

The Pastor's Bible Study

An interactive study of the Gospel of Matthew¹

Week 20 ~ Exploring Chapter 21:1 – 22:14

Personal Study Time:

(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

- Start a new section in your Matthew notebook and label it chapter 21:1-22:14
- Read Matthew chapters 21 to 23 one time in order to grasp larger context. As you read, try to identify its major theme(s).
 - Now read Matthew 21:1-22:14 through again. How does it fit into the three chapters taken as a whole?
- Re-read Matt. 21:1-11 and then answer the following questions.
 - What is the significance of the triumphal entry in 21:1-11? List any words or phrases that highlight that significance. In formulating your list, it will be helpful to compare 21:8 with 2 Kings 9:13. How do you think the Jewish leaders felt regarding Jesus' entry and the people's enthusiasm?
 - Use your marginal references to discover the Old Testament references behind Matt. 21:5. What do those references contribute to your knowledge of why Jesus chose a young donkey to make His entry into Jerusalem? What kind of king would He be? What would have been the symbolism had Jesus ridden a horse rather than a donkey (Compare Rev. 19:11-16)?
- Re-read Matt. 21:12-17 and then answer the following questions.
 - In the previous question, you discussed the feelings of the Jewish leaders as they witnessed Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, in what ways would the cleansing of the temple have affected those feelings?
 - Jesus was upset at the way people were using the Temple of God in his day, how are you using the temple today (your body is a temple according to 1 Cor 6:19)? What changes do you feel Jesus would like you to make in this regard?
- Re-read Matt. 21:18-22 and then answer the following questions.
 - How does the story of the withered fig tree fit in to the sequence of events in chapters 21 to 23? Compare Mark's parallel treatment of the fig tree and temple sequences. What is different between the two treatments of the sequence?
 - Given the problems Jesus is facing with the Jewish leaders in the temple in particular and in chapters 21 to 23 in general, write a paragraph on what you see as the symbolism behind the withered fig tree.
- Re-read Matt. 21:28-22:14 and then answer the following questions.
 - This passage contains three parables. Summarize in a few sentences the main lesson of each parable. How are they alike in their lessons? How are they different? Describe the composite understanding that you get from the three taken as a block of teaching.

¹ Quoted and/or adapted from George R. Knight, *Matthew: The Gospel of the Kingdom*, The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press Pub. Association, 1994).